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CIRCULATION—2000

MEETING OF OFFICERS S. S.

MEETING OF THE TOWNSHIP SUPT. OF THE NORTH CAROLINA S. S. ASSOCIATION FOR MADISON COUNTY HELD SUNDAY, SEPT. 18TH AT MARSHALL BAPTIST CHURCH

A meeting of the officers of the Madison County Sunday School was held for the purpose of arranging for the different township presidents to hold their annual township conventions.

The following township presidents were present: Mr. A. H. Sams, No. 14 Township; Mr. R. C. Eller, No. 3 Township; Mr. G. H. Roberts, No. 6; together with the County Officers—A. W. Whitehurst, County President; Dr. J. H. Hutchins, Vice-President; and Mr. J. A. Deffin, County Secretary. There were present a number of visitors.

There was a very satisfactory interest manifested by those present and plans were made to hold conventions in the following townships.

No. 14 Township convention will be held at Grape Vine Church the first Sunday in October, following the regular Sunday School hour.

No. 3 Township Convention will be held at Laurel Branch Church at 10 o'clock A. M., Fourth Sunday in October.

No. 6 Township Convention will be held at Teagues Chapel the second Sunday in October at 10 o'clock A. M. No. 16 Township Convention to be held at Fosters Creek Church first Sunday in November at 10:00 o'clock A. M.

No. 11 Township Convention to be held at Methodist Church at Faust post office, fourth Sunday in October, following the regular Sunday School hour.

No. 8 Township Convention to be held at Spring Creek Baptist Church first Sunday in October at regular Sunday School hour.

No. 15 Township Convention to be held at Mars Hill Baptist Church on second Sunday in October.

No. 12 Township Convention to be held at Big Pine Church on second Sunday in October.

No. 4. Township Convention to be held at Paint Fork Church on third Sunday in October.

No. 5. Township Convention to be held at California Creek Church on first Sunday in November, regular Sunday School hour.

No. 2 Township Convention to be held at White Rock Presbyterian Church second Sunday in November at regular Sunday School hour.

No. 7. Township Convention to be held at Caney Fork Church on third Sunday in November at regular Sunday School hour.

No. 13 Township Convention to be held at Baldwins Chapel fourth Sunday in November at regular Sunday School hour.

The various Township Presidents are urged to give the meetings in their respective townships the very greatest publicity and endeavor to make the conventions as helpful as possible.

MRS. ERNEST ROBERSON SHOOT'S STRANGE BIRD

At her home September 14, 1927, Mrs. Ernest Roberson shot and killed with a 12-gauge shotgun a very unusual bird. The bird was at first mistaken for a sparrow-hawk, being about the size of one. It flew very low over the house and lit at a pond just beyond where she walked out to within a few feet of it and noticed by its tameness that it was not a hawk. Being anxious to know what kind of bird it was she fired, but did not kill the bird instantly.

The bird's body was about the size of a robin's, with long legs, a long slender neck with a very large bill. As the bird was shedding, its color feathers were a somewhat greenish color and the new ones were a greenish yellow. Around the bird's leg was a silver band bearing these words and the number "Biol. Surv. 292708."

Feed the bees so that they may pass the winter in good condition. A mixture of equal parts of sugar and water will provide the necessary food.

ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC

The orthopaedic clinic for the free examination and treatment of indigent cripples being held under the auspices of the Rotary Club in the Biltmore Hospital at Asheville will meet again on Saturday, Sept. 24th. H. L. STANTON, Supervisor, Vocational Rehabilitation.

1927 COMPETITION

Southern Railway Corn Cup

Southern Railway System offers a Silver Cup to be competed for annually for the Best Ten Ears of any variety of Field Corn grown and exhibited by a corn grower in Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee or Virginia.

All corn growers in the above states are invited to compete for this splendid prize.

The purpose of this award is to encourage the growing of more corn and the planting of improved varieties throughout the South.

A CORRECTION

In our last issue, instead of saying the Copenhaver Co. was suing Marshall for more than \$5,000 damages it should have read that the amount was claimed by the company for work which the town considered unnecessary and have refused to pay it. The contracting company claims they were following the instructions of the town's engineer.

JOHN METCALF, SR. DIES VISITING SON

Mr. John Metcalf, Sr., died at the home of his son, Mr. John Metcalf, near Petersburg at nine o'clock A. M. on Sept. 20, age 89 years. He had come from his home at Charlotte Court House, Va., to visit and became ill and died in two days. The funeral was from the home at 10:00 o'clock A. M. Thursday, conducted by Rev. A. J. Sprinkle and interment followed at the family cemetery at Petersburg, Marshall, R. F. D. 2. The pallbearers were E. C. Eller, Dr. J. H. Hutchins, J. C. Sprinkle, Cecil Ramsey, G. W. Sams, I. M. Butler, C. L. Tillery, Isaac Rambough, and J. W. Wyatt.

The deceased is survived by the following sons and daughters: W. R. and A. R. and E. F. Metcalf, Charlotte C. H., Va., John Metcalf, Mrs. S. A. Dill, and Mrs. S. P. Rice, Marshall, R. F. D. No. 2. He was buried with Masonic honors the ceremonies being in charge of Masonic Fraternity of French Broad Lodge No. 292, Marshall, at the request of St. John's Lodge No. 144 of Charlotte Court House, Va., where Mr. Metcalf has lived for several years. Dr. W. A. Sams was Master of Ceremonies and W. H. Morrow, Chief Marshal.

MADISON COUNTY AND STATE FOREST SERVICE

Madison County has built up such a good record in its cooperative work with the State Forest Service that it has been cited as an example in securing some of the Counties in the Eastern part of the State.

Of course, conditions there are much different from ours here in the mountains, but there are of necessity certain fundamental rules for success which apply equally well in both sections. It was with a view to determining some of these fundamental rules that Assistant State Forester McCormick made an inspection of Madison on Saturday. He was accompanied by District Forester W. K. Beichler and County Warden, C. M. Gage.

Perhaps the keynote of Madison's success is this: efficient organization, and plenty of it. In other words, the County has a large number of good Wardens per unit of territory. The Districts are small enough that the District Wardens can keep in constant touch with the situation. Much credit is due to County Warden Gage for the manner in which he handles his men. Almost without exception he sees each of them several times a month, thus keeping before them all

the time the importance of their responsibility.

Madison offers what we may call a "tough proposition" as far as fires are concerned. The mountains are steep and rough, with little water on the slopes. Such a situation demands constant watchfulness to catch the fires while they are "young."

Mr. McCormick and the District then went on to Knoxville to meet Supervisor R. H. Carlton of the Cherokee Forest and District Forester Fred Shulley of the Tennessee Service. Arrangements were made with Shulley for cooperative work between the States along the State line. This work is somewhat handicapped on our side by the fact that Cherokee, Swain and Graham Counties do not at present cooperate with the State. This condition we hope to remedy next year.

W. K. BEICHLER, District Forester

From REVERE

Our S. S. is getting along nicely. Mr. N. H. Griffin preached two wonderful sermons Saturday and Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. Graddon Wilds were visiting Mr. and Mrs. Joe Rice Sunday.

There was a ball game at Revere Friday afternoon. It was enjoyed by all.

Mrs. Joe Rice and little daughter, Geneva, spent Saturday night with Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Wallin.

Mr. Hubert Ramsey was the pleasant guest of Miss Carrie Norton Saturday night.

There's always a girl at every dance who makes the others wish they had gone to the movies.

Program & Premiums of OLD TIME MUSIC CONTEST

Western N. C. Fair OCTOBER 4-5-6-7

In this contest the Counties will be grouped and scheduled as below. The winners from each group will be eligible for the final Contest at 7:30 P. M., Friday, October 7th.

Tuesday, October 4th—12:00 Noon—All entries from McDowell, Rutherford and Burke Counties.
 2:30 P. M.—All entries from Polk, Henderson and Transylvania counties.

7:30 P. M.—All entries from Madison and Yancey counties.

Wednesday, October 5th—12:00 Noon—All entries from Clay, Cherokee and Graham counties.

2:30 P. M.—All entries from Jackson Swain and Macon counties.

7:30 P. M.—All entries from Buncombe and Haywood counties.

Thursday, October 6th—11:30 A. M.—All entries from Ash, Wilkes and Allegheny counties.

2:30 P. M.—All entries from Avery, Watauga and Mitchell counties.

7:30 P. M.—All entries from others outside Western North Carolina.

Friday, October 7th—11:30 A. M.—Music—by Mr. Bascom Lamar Lunsford.

2:30 P. M.—Music.

7:30 P. M.—Winners from all Counties to compete for the following:

FIRST: Fiddle \$35.00
 Banjo 20.00
 Guitar 10.00
 Clog Dancer 10.00
 Three Piece Band 20.00
 Novelties 10.00
 Old Time Song by Man 10.00
 Old Time Song by Lady 10.00

SECOND: (Respectively) \$125.00

\$20.00

10.00

5.00

5.00

5.00

5.00

5.00

5.00

5.00

5.00

5.00

CONSERVATION

Hunting and fishing can be made one of the chief attractions of our western counties. Good hunting and good fishing will bring thousands of people here, many of whom will become permanent residents. As you know, our fishing has been practically destroyed, and our game badly decimated.

The new state law, with its licenses gives us a chance to build up sufficient revenue to thoroughly restock our western counties with game and fish. We want our readers to realize what the plan of this license fee, and the strict enforcement of the game laws will mean to Western North Carolina.

The money that comes in from the licenses will be used in turn to propagate game and fish. We can make W. N. C. the finest hunting and fishing grounds in this country. We have already established a Game Refuge on Mt. Mitchell, and we hope to establish two or three more in Western North Carolina in the next year or two.

Readers, this matter should concern everyone, whether he is interested very much in hunting or fishing or whether he does not care for these.

Think of the next generation. Do we want to leave them just a few polluted streams that have been depleted of fish, or some few hunted-out forests in which there is no game? Of course we don't. We want them to enjoy good hunting and fishing, also. What are we going to do about this? It would pay everyone to give this matter a few minutes' serious thought, and then resolve not to take over the limit in fish, not to take undersized fish, not to take more than one's share of game, and to help in every way possible to enforce the new laws and help to conserve our game and fish.

Some weeks ago we chronicled the story of a little girl in Ohio who requested the War Department to send her a little brother or sister. Col. Hanford MacNider, Assistant Secretary of War, seeing the grave importance of the young lady's request, made the following reply:

"I have delayed answering your letter because I have been looking all over the War Department trying to find you a little brother or sister."

"I am so sorry to have to tell you that we just cannot spare any of those we now have. The stork leaves us only enough to go around and to send you one would deprive some little boy or girl of its playmate which I know you would not have us do."

"I have instructed the army aviators to watch the skies when they are flying around and if they see a stork delivering a little baby to tell of your desires."

From forty to sixty farmers of Union county make a farm tour of the county, visiting their neighbors and studying the good methods being followed.

Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.

TAXES, HERE AND THERE!

(By IRA PLEMMONS)

It's a good sign when people begin to study the purpose for which their tax money is expended. Of late this interest has greatly increased because of mounting taxes.

In North Carolina there is slightly more than five hundred taxing units each operating separately and apart from each other, all of them peddling bonds from the court houses, city halls and other places, and every one of these bonds sold means just another mortgage on the homes of the now over-burdened taxpayers.

We are told by the National Industrial Conference that more than five hundred millions of dollars are wasted by local governments each and every year. There are in the United States three quarters of a million separate local taxing and spending units, all of which operate independently. In 1913 they spent \$1,844,000,000 and in 1925 it had mounted up to \$15,829,000,000 or from \$19.10 to \$50.52 per capita. The board believes there ought to be some centralized control over local expenditures.

I can see how there is some danger in centralized power, and whether or not it's the best I do not know. Three states have this power now—New Mexico, Indiana and Massachusetts, but there does seem to be some advantage in this kind of supervision. However improvement cannot be imposed. It must come from the bottom. Yet there seems to be as much extravagance in State administrations as in local agencies.

I really do not think that the great majority of people know very much about just what the general conditions are. For example, let us take the recent analysis of Craven County. This county owes \$15,000,000 with a

property valuation of \$26,000,000. This is how the debt stacks up. The County owes \$2,600,000. The towns owe \$1,750,000. Loans of the banks to the people—\$5,000,000. State debt (Craven's part) \$1,500,000. National debt (Craven's part) \$1,000,000. Owning investment companies \$500,000. Owing land banks \$500,000. Private debts to others, including deferred payments on autos, etc. \$2,150,000. Total—\$15,000,000.

Practically the same situation confronts every County in the State, and ours very particularly. I admit that I had never thought of it much, but it's so. Now what are we going to do about it? Are our county and towns and other taxing units going on and on? If so, what is to be the final result? People in Wake County have given the tax collector bad checks to the amount of \$5,000. In doing this they undoubtedly thought that by some turn of luck they would be able to protect their checks and save themselves the cost and the extra 20 per cent in case of sale. Just why that 20 per cent is added to the taxes of the man who cannot the hundred cents on the dollar, I have never been able to understand. If the taxpayer cannot pay the hundred cents on the dollar, how can it be supposed that he can pay one hundred and twenty per cent and the cost? In other words it seems to be a penalty of twenty per cent and cost to be so poor that he cannot pay his taxes. Is this thing right? I do not think so. Is it time to stop borrowing, even if it be for a good purpose and that we should get a dollar's worth of value for every dollar paid out. It must be remembered that there must be a limit of borrowing even for a good purpose. That limit has been approached in North Carolina, and in the case of some counties and towns it unquestionably has been passed. In our own County that limit is badly overdone, and "now there has to be a reckoning."

If we are to preserve our capacity to provide for such essentials as education we must not exhaust our credit on other things that we can do without. To place the most rigid sort of restrictions on public borrowing may protect real progress by preventing the frittering away of credit.

The wild-eyed spender of public money must be held in check, or certainly our progress must stop and will stop.

I have been waiting patiently for the final outcome of our \$50,000 dollars deficit of school funds. It seems that the boys cannot get their marbles together. Really the folk would like to know just what all this fifty thousand was spent for and where it was placed.

I noted that it was stated that the forty five thousand that has been borrowed recently would not add anything to the debt of the county, for a fact my head is too thick to understand that, for I have never yet been able to go to the banks and get money without paying at least six per cent interest. If any of the banks are lending money without charging interest why not lend some to the boys that cannot pay their taxes. So many farms and town lots would not have been sold for taxes if this can be done.

I confess that banks require every borrower to pay interest and that in advance, and that that interest is real money added to the principal. If this is not extra expense to the county debt then I am misled and mistaken.

I believe that if we could rid ourselves of many, very many unnecessary office holders, and coordinate the efforts of many of the taxing units that many millions of dollars would be saved to the taxpayers, without the loss of any of the necessary services we now have.

One instance in our own county is a perfectly good farm demonstrator. This may be a good man and I do not say he is not, but the services the farmers are getting are not worth the cost. I have no quarrel to pick with the demonstrator. He is perhaps doing the very best he can, but the taxpayers could be relieved of about a dollar's apiece in this county if this office were abolished. I am not saying that some good has not been accomplished, but I do say that the cost, if any, has not been worth the cost.

Mr. and Mrs. Ted Lance and children of Asheville were here a few days the last of the week visiting Mrs. N. J. Lance.

Mr. and Mrs. McDaniel of Marshall were in Hot Springs Tuesday.

Mr. J. D. Ramsey made a business trip to Fontana Wednesday.

Mr. Tom W. ... spent a few days ... his aunt, Mrs. Tom ...

Mrs. Gordon Conley left Tuesday